

THE COMET.

VOL. I.

JOHNSON CITY, TENN., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1884.

NO. 29.

POLITICAL.

Spiritless Sneaks.

Pettibone regards the people of this Congressional district as a lot of spiritless sneaks and cowards, whom he can bulldoze when he pleases.—Mountaineer.

Certainly True.

The office-loving Pettibone in attempting to force and push himself upon the people this time, has made a mistake which, we predict, he will regret through all his future life.—Mountaineer.

Like the Vulture.

Pettibone believes in holding on to office with a relentless grip. He seems to have an unappeasable appetite for office and the more he is fed upon such food, the more he craves and cries for it. Like the vulture which preyed upon the vitals of Prometheus, he feeds, but is never filled.—Mountaineer.

"I have endeavored in writing not to be indecent."—Blaine to Fisher.

Maine and Arkansas.

Blaine's organs boast because the invariable Maine has gone republican again this month. They are silent about the variable Arkansas going democratic at the same time. They boast of a republican majority of 15,411 in Maine. They are silent about the democratic majority of 44,136 in Arkansas. They boast of 78,912 votes that were cast for Mr. Robie in Maine. They are silent about 99,972 that were cast for Mr. Hughes in Arkansas. They boast of Robie's vote being 3,000 larger than any republican vote ever before polled in Maine. They are silent about Hughes' vote being 11,000 larger than any democratic vote ever before polled in Arkansas.—N. Y. Herald.

Pettibone Has Not Done His Duty.

Many of you he has abused and often neglected and refused to attend to your claims—neglected and refused to reply to your letters of inquiry! We refer you to the letter published in the *Pilot* of this week, wherein is set forth the fact, that from Pettibone's neglect to look after the claim of Capt. Hendrickson, after having repeatedly promised to do so, the Attorney, Mr. Walls, had to seek Senator Isham G. Harris and get him to work it up. Now, this same man, Pettibone, is again around just before an election rehearsing his old promises. Will you longer support a man who carelessly neglects your interests?—Tennessee.

"No one will ever know from me that I disposed a single dollar in Maine." Blaine to Fisher.

"They All Do It" in Politics.

Do you know what it means when the people of a Republic begin to ridicule and rail at those who set up a high standard of public honor and mean to abide by it? Woe to the Republic that drifts in a channel like that. And there, my fellow citizens, are we. Do you not know that it is the favorite cry of all those who want to excuse corruption to say, "They all do it." [Laughter and applause.] Have you not heard that time and again? Ah! my fellow citizens, I tell you if the really did all do it then it would be high time to put this Republic into liquidation and appoint a receiver as soon as we could. [Applause.] If they did all do it then the immigration we have from Europe had better cease and we had better think of going back to the old countries where they do not all do it.—From Mr. Schurz's speech at Detroit.

"I have placed you in positions whereby you have received very large sums of money without one dollar of expense to you, and you ought not to forget the act on my part."—Fisher to Blaine.

What the Friend of the Soldier Has Done.

It is claimed that Maj. Pettibone is a great friend to the soldiers, and secured for many of them positions in the departments at Washington. That is a true test for his love for the soldiers. Of the number of persons that he and Brownlow have secured positions for in the departments at Washington, we know of but one Federal soldier in the whole list. All are good and deserving men, we suppose, but many of them were unborn in 1861 and many of them were too young to enter the army when the war closed and some belonged to the stay-at-home brigade, and one was a conscript officer in the rebel army, who forced Union boys into the rebel army or to leave their homes and kindred and at the risk of their lives make their way by night across the mountains to Kentucky, to the Federal army. Yes, a splendid friend to the Federal soldier is Major Pettibone.—Tenn. *Pilot*.

MR. BLAINE'S MARRIAGE.

The Candidate's Virtual Admission of the Alleged Libelous Charges.

A SECRET CEREMONY IN KENTUCKY.

THE MARRIAGE REPEATED IN PENNSYLVANIA IN ORDER TO ASSURE ITS VALIDITY.

NEW YORK, September 19.

William Walter Phelps takes the responsibility of giving to the public the following private letter addressed to him nearly two weeks ago:

ANGUSTA, September 6, 1884.

MY DEAR MR. PHELPS: I have your favor of the 4th advising me that "the continuous invention and wide circulation of evil reports render it advisable (in your judgment) not to wait the slow process of the law but to speak directly to the public in my own vindication." In this opinion many others, on whose judgment I rely, concur. I shrink instinctively from the suggestion, although I feel sure I can strengthen the confidence of all who felt friendly to me by bringing to view the simple thread of truth which is concealed in this endless tissue of falsehood. You can imagine how inexpressibly painful it must be to discuss one's domestic life in the press, although I think, with you, that under the circumstances I could count upon the generosity of the public to justify a statement which otherwise might seem objectionable. I can, in any event, safely commit the facts to you for personal communication to those friends who have taken so delicate and so considerate an interest in my affairs. The leisure hours of to-day, when our campaign is ended, and we wait only for the election, gives me the opportunity for this prompt reply and for the following essential details.

At Georgetown, Ky., in the spring of 1848, when I was but 18 years of age, I first met the lady who for more than thirty-four years has been my wife. Our acquaintance resulted, at the end of six months, in an engagement, which, without the prospect of speedy marriage, we naturally sought to keep to ourselves. Two years later, in the spring of 1850, when I was maturing plans to leave my profession in Kentucky and establish myself elsewhere, I was suddenly summoned to Pennsylvania by the death of my father. It being very doubtful if I could return to Kentucky, I was threatened with an indefinite separation from her who possessed my entire devotion. My one wish was to secure her to myself by an indissoluble tie against every possible contingency in life, and on the 30th day of June, 1850, just prior to my departure from Kentucky, we were, in the presence of chosen and trusted friends, united by what I knew was, in my native State of Pennsylvania, a perfectly legal form of marriage.

On reaching home I found that my family, and especially my beloved mother, strongly discountenanced my business plans as involving too long a separation from home and kindred. I complied with her wish that I should resume, at least for a time, my occupation in Kentucky, whither I returned in the latter part of August. During the ensuing winter, induced by misgivings under new responsibilities—misgivings which were increased by legal consultations—I became alarmed lest a doubt might be thrown upon the validity of our marriage by reason of non-compliance with the law of the State where it had occurred, for I had learned that the laws of Kentucky made a license certified by the Clerk of the County Court an indispensable requisite of a legal marriage. After much deliberation and with an anxious desire to guard in the most effectual manner against any possible embarrassment resulting from our position—for which I alone was responsible—we decided that the simplest and at the same time the surest way was to repair to Pennsylvania and have another marriage service performed. This was done, in the presence of witnesses, in the city of Pittsburgh, in the month of March, 1851, but was not otherwise made public, for obvious reasons. It was solemnized only to secure an indisputable validity—the first marriage being by my wife and myself always held sacred.

At the mature age of fifty-four I do not defend the wisdom or prudence of a secret marriage, suggested by the ardor and the inexperience of youth; but his honor and its purity were inviolate, as I believe, in the sight of God, and cannot be made to appear otherwise by the wicked devices of men. It brought to me a companionship which has been my chief happiness from boyhood's years to this hour and has crowned me with whatever of success I have attained in life. My eldest child—a son—was born in his grandmother's house on the 18th day of June, 1851, in the city of Augusta, Maine, and died in her arms three years later. His ashes repose in the cemetery of his native city, beneath a stone which recorded his name and the limits of his innocent life. That

stone, which had stood for almost an entire generation, has been recently defaced by brutal and sacrilegious hands.

As a candidate for the Presidency I knew that I should encounter many forms of calumny and personal defamation, but I confess that I did not expect to be called upon to defend the name of a beloved and honored wife, who is a mother and grandmother, nor did I expect that the grave of my little child would be cruelly desecrated. Against such gross forms of wrong the law gives no adequate redress, and I know that in the end my most effective appeal against the unspeakable outrage which I resist must be to the noble manhood and womanhood of America. Your friend, very sincerely,

JAMES G. BLAINE.

"Taking into account the \$100,000 bonds you sold Tom Scott and the amount of money you received on the Eastern contracts, our relative positions financially in the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad bear a wide contrast."—Fisher to Blaine.

Written for THE COMET.

Republicans and Mormonism.

BY SENEX.

Notwithstanding the Mormons have increased in Utah, over three hundred per cent in twenty years, under a Republican administration, as stated by Mr. Logan, and notwithstanding they have spread over other western territories and have established themselves in various communities in the States, under Republican protection, the increase, it seems, is not sufficient to satisfy the progressive spirit of Republicanism. So, it is its pleasure, to announce the arrival, last week at New York, of the steamer, Wyoming, with 500 foreigners, converts to Mormonism, on their way to Utah.

And still they call polygamy a Democratic institution.

"I can do something, I feel very sanguine, with Thomas A. Scott."—Blaine to Fisher.

The Science of Cookery.

Nothing is more indicative of the radical nature of modern reform than the firm grip scientific men are making on the frying-pan and the sauce-pan. An article in the *October Popular Science Monthly* is devoted to the chemistry of cooking, and from every phase of modern thought the kitchen is being invaded, if not investigated and improved.

What gets into the kitchen is of as much importance as what is done with it after it gets in, and a million articles or so in our popular magazines about how not to buy tough beef or mutton for lamb; how to tell fresh from stale eggs and ripe from unripe fruit would do more to stop drunkenness and domestic troubles than double as many temperance lectures and sermons. But perhaps as young ladies get to understand the acids of fruit and the salts in oysters their pure minds will rise to larger circles of vegetable and animal qualities. The article in question is opposed to those cranks who want no animal food and who would like to extract the salt from nature and those other cranks who think acids dangerous in the main. When the future cook understands that in the grape, the lemon and the potato is the elixir of life the sauce-pan will take the place of poetry and the cooks, not the coachmen, will be the parties to find rich companions ready to elope with them anywhere, so the laws of food as applied to the laws of the stomach are properly understood.—Phila. Times.

Mr. Blaine asked me how I should like a political office, and I told him I did not care about one. He asked me if I would not like a consulship.—James Mulligan's Testimony before the Judiciary Committee.

I would not say that Mr. Mulligan falsified; I do not want to say that at all.—James G. Blaine's Testimony before the same Committee.

The *North American Review* for Oct. is notable as well for the importance of the topics treated, as for the eminence of its writers. The leading article, "Moral Character in Politics," is by President J. H. Seelye, whose ex-posed position of the ethical principles involved in the popular election of candidates to high offices in the Government must command the attention of every right-minded citizen. "Benefits of the Tariff System," a sequel to the "Evils of the Tariff System," is a symposium consisting of three articles, written by John Rosch, R. E. Thompson and Nelson Dingley, Jr., who advocate the protection of American industries. In addition to these, the *Review* has an article by the Rev. Dr. A. Jessop, entitled "Why I Wish to Visit America," "The Origin of Yellow Fever," by Dr. C. Creighton; "Shall the Jury System be Abolished?" by Judge Robert V. Hayne; "The Genesis of Tennyson's Maud," by Richard H. Shepherd; and "The Development of Machine Guns," by Lieut. C. Stearns.

"Blaine is an important man for us to have feel all right toward us."—Caldwell to Fisher.

BLAINE'S LIBEL SUIT.

Answers of the Plaintiff to the Interrogatories of the Defendant.

HIS TWO MARRIAGES.

BIRTH AND DEATH OF HIS FIRST CHILD.

In the Blaine libel suit, in the United States District Court, Mr. Blaine's attorneys filed the following answers to the interrogatories propounded by the *Sentinel's* attorneys on September 5:—

THE INTERROGATORIES.

The interrogatories were as follows:

1. What was the name of your wife?

2. When and where did you make her acquaintance?

3. State whether you ever lived in the State of Kentucky; if so, in what were you there employed and at what place and at what time you were so employed?

4. State whether the person whom you afterward married lived in Kentucky at that time, in what employment she was engaged and at what place she was so engaged?

5. State at what time you finally left Kentucky if you at any time resided there, where you went therefrom, where you were employed and in what business or calling?

6. If you answer that the maiden name of your wife was Harriet Stanwood, state when she finally left Kentucky, where she went, with whom she went and when and where you next met her?

7. When and where were you married?

8. Were you not married some time in the month of March, 1851?

9. Give the date and place of your marriage and the names of the persons besides yourself and wife who were present on the occasion?

10. What acquaintance had you with Jacob Stanwood?

11. What relation, if any, was he to the person whom you married, and what conversation or interview did you have with him before said marriage concerning the same, and where did such interview, if any, occur, and what was said and done thereat?

12. Was not the first child of said marriage born on the 18th day of June, 1851?

13. What was the name? How long did it live and with whom?

14. When did said child die? Where was it buried? and if in any cemetery, give name of cemetery?

15. Was any tombstone or monument erected at the grave of said child? Give the date of its birth and by whose directions was such tombstone erected?

16. Was there any inscription on said tombstone at the time of its erection or shortly thereafter? If so give said inscription, in words and figures, as same was originally graven on said tombstone.

17. Did not said tombstone bear the following inscription relative to the birth of said child, "Stanwood Blaine, born June 18, 1851?"

18. Has any portion of said inscription on said tombstone been erased since its erection? If so, what portion?

19. What acquaintance have you with the book called "The Life of James G. Blaine," written by Russell H. Conwell, with introduction by Governor Robie, of Maine, and published by E. C. Allen & Co., of Augusta, Me., in the year of 1884?

20. Were not proofs of such work submitted by you for revision?

21. Is not the statement made upon the sixty-eighth page of said book, as follows, "Miss Stanwood, in March, 1851, became his wife at Pittsburgh, Pa.," a correct statement as to the time and place of your marriage?

22. Did not you communicate to the author of said book for his use and such work the time and place of your marriage, as aforesaid?

MR. BLAINE'S ANSWERS.

"I, James G. Blaine, of Augusta, Me., on oath depose and say, in answer to the foregoing interrogatories:

1. Harriet B. Stanwood.

2. Georgetown, Ky., in the spring of 1848.

3. I lived in Kentucky as assistant professor or tutor in the Western Military Institute from January, 1848, to December, 1851. In 1848 and 1849 the institute was at Georgetown, in 1850 at Blue Lick and in 1851 at Decemnon Springs.

4. The lady I married lived in Kentucky from the spring of 1848 to the spring of 1851, engaged as a teacher in Colonel T. F. Johnson's Female Seminary—the first two years at Georgetown, the last year at Millersburg.

5. I finally left Kentucky in the latter part of December, 1851, went to New Orleans on business and thence directly to Augusta, Me., which place I reached on February 9, 1852, and was next employed as principal teacher in the Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind in Philadelphia.

6. My wife left Kentucky in March, 1851, accompanied by myself as far as Pittsburgh, Pa., thence traveled alone

to New York, where she was met by her brother, Jacob Stanwood, and under his protection proceeded to her mother's residence in Augusta, Me., where I next met her, February 9, 1852.

DATES OF THE TWO MARRIAGES.

7, 8 and 9. I was married in Millersburg, Ky., on the 30th of June, 1850, in the presence of Sarah C. Stanwood and S. L. Blaine. The marriage was secret. Having a doubt subsequently of its validity under the laws of Kentucky, which then stringently required a license from the Clerk of the County Court, I had the marriage solemnized a second time in Pittsburgh, Pa., on the 29th of March, 1851, in the presence of John V. Lemoine and David Bell.

10 and 11. Jacob Stanwood was the eldest brother of my wife. I had no acquaintance with him at the time of my marriage; had never seen him nor heard from him in any way, directly or indirectly, before my marriage. I met him for the first time in February, 1852. I had two letters from him after my marriage and before I met him—one warmly welcoming me as a member of the family; the other inquiring if he could promote my business interests by the loan of money. I had no other correspondence of any kind with him until after I had personally met him in February, 1852. My wife had two other brothers, neither of whom I had ever met when I came to New England in February, 1852, nor did I ever meet any male relatives of my wife before my arrival in New England in February, 1852.

BIRTH OF HIS FIRST CHILD.

12, 13 and 15. My first child, a son, was born in the house of his grandmother on the 18th day of June, 1851. His name was Stanwood Blaine. He lived with his parents in 1852, 1853 and a part of 1854 in Philadelphia. He died on July 31, 1854, and was buried in the Stanwood family lot, in Forest Grove Cemetery, Augusta, Me.

GRAVESTONE MUTILATION.

15, 16 and 17. A monument was placed by my direction over his grave a year after his death, thus inscribed: "Stanwood Blaine, son of James G. and Harriet S. Blaine, born June 18, 1851; died July 31, 1854."

18. I have not myself seen the stone since the first week in July, but have reason to believe, and do believe, that since that date many letters and figures thereon have been defaced and that the figure "1" in the year 1851, has been entirely removed. I have no means of ascertaining by whom this was done, but have reason to believe, and do believe, that a photograph was taken of the defaced stone by the procurement of one of the publishers of the *New Age*, a democratic paper published in this city, and that copies of said photograph were sent to divers and sundry persons, including the publisher of the *Indianapolis Sentinel*, defendant of this suit.

19, 20, 21 and 22. I know of the book referred to as "Life of James G. Blaine." I did not revise the volume nor become in any degree responsible for any statement made in it, though I saw parts of it before its publication, but did not and have not to this day seen page 68, to which the question refers, though the statement there made was doubtless derived by the author, Russell H. Conwell, from conversations with me, but not from any special authorization by me to make it.

JAMES G. BLAINE.

United States of America, District of Maine, ss.:

Before me, Winfield S. Choate, Commissioner of the Circuit Court of the United States, in and for said district, personally appeared James G. Blaine, and subscribed and made oath to the foregoing answers.

Witness my hand and official seal, at Augusta, in said district, this 17th day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-four. WINFIELD S. CHOATE, Commissioner of the Circuit Court of the United States for the District of Maine.

"My object in writing is to ask in season if your friends would desire to establish a bank at Little Rock? It will be to some extent a matter of favoritism as to who gets the banks in the several localities, and it will be in my power to 'cast an anchor to the windward' in your behalf if you desire it."—Blaine to Fisher.

He Asked a Blessing.

Low Campbell, the "One Spoon Baking Powder" man, who travels south, was invited by a lady to dinner. The guests were all seated, and the lady, turning to Low, said:

"Mr. Campbell, will you ask a blessing?"

"Wha—wha—beg pardon, madam," he stammered, dropping his napkin. "Will you please ask a blessing?" she repeated.

Then she lowered her head and so did everybody else, and poor Low looked down at his plate and stammered: "Low—Low—have mercy on these poor wittles. Amen."—*Merckest Tracer*.

LOMA UNO CHA HUA HUA HUA HUA.

COMET SPARKS.

What's you say 'bout dem Mulligan letters? Dat jis shows dat Blaine's got de money.

A negro proverb says: "Dead limb on tree shows itself when de buds come out."

Whether Blaine kneels at church we cannot say. It is certain that he knelt to Mulligan.

Blaine received intelligence of his nomination in the shade of an apple tree. The shadows are upon him still.

In the coming election the influence of the press will be tested. Nearly all the leading papers are for Cleveland.

What a pity it is when charming woman enters politics. Miss Belva Lockwood can't run. Her skirts are in the way.

"Burn this letter." That was a cruel request which Blaine made. Every sentence this great man has written ought to go down to posterity.

An English scientist has discovered an animal with eleven thousand eyes. Blaine ought to have that animal to keep account of the men who are leaving him.

The managers of St. John's canvass are busily engaged in manufacturing a scandal on him. They find out that he won't get a thousand votes unless some scandal is told on him.

John Adams when in the presence of some visitors on a certain occasion arose from his seat and took the sofa, saying: "Excuse me gentlemen, I always talk better when I lie."

Cleveland has gone back to the woods again.—Hawkeye.

He can easily afford to rest quietly in assurance of victory since the Mulligan letters have come out.

A Virginia baby has been named "Cleveland." Oh well if its that kind of a baby.—Hawkeye.

What kind do you mean? Are you trying to bring into notice Blaine's little boy, Stanwood. Bewareful man.

We heard a good old Republican brother say the other day: "I am sick of politics, I don't propose to have anything more to do with it. There is too much of this Mulligan business in the papers." Old man the half has not been told.

The report that John Kelly's house in New York is worth \$80,000, probably arose from the well known saying that "Silence is Golden," and about these days Mr. Kelly appears to have a whole mountain of that, Hawkeye.

Since you wrote that, John has put his foot on Blaine. You will find out the truth of another saying in Nov. viz., "Silence is Powerful."

Among the oddities of Tennessee country town names are: A B C, Bible Hill, Bird Song, three named Buck Short, Buzzard's Roost, Calf Killer, Chimney Top, Chukaluck, Defeated, Dew Drop, Dumplin, Friendship, Friend Station and Friendsville, Grief, Life, Light, Mark Twain, two New Yorks and one Philadelphia; Number One and Second, Shooey, Snake, Sweetlips, and Sweetwater; Tiger Tail, U Bet and Yum Yum.—Fayetteville Express.

Fshaw, that's nothing. There used to be a postoffice in Washington county called Dampfool, and there is one now in the county called Pettibone.

"I note what you say about the importance of my keeping all quiet here."—Blaine to Fisher.

Speaking Appointments.

CONGRESSIONAL.

Hon. O. C. King, democratic nominee, and A. H. Pettibone, republican nominee for Congress, will address the people at the following times and places:

J. C. Thomas Pott's Val, Saturday, Sept. 27. Yellow Springs, Monday, Sept. 29. Russellville, Tuesday, Sept. 30. Knoxville, Wednesday, Oct. 1. Rogersville, Thursday, Oct. 2. Stone Point, Friday, Oct. 3. Kingsport, Saturday, Oct. 4. Kingsport, Sunday, Oct. 5. Kingsport, Monday, Oct. 6. Kingsport, Tuesday, Oct. 7. Kingsport, Wednesday, Oct. 8. Kingsport, Thursday, Oct. 9. Kingsport, Friday, Oct. 10. Kingsport, Saturday, Oct. 11. Kingsport, Sunday, Oct. 12. Kingsport, Monday, Oct. 13. Kingsport, Tuesday, Oct. 14. Kingsport, Wednesday, Oct. 15. Kingsport, Thursday, Oct. 16. Kingsport, Friday, Oct. 17. Kingsport, Saturday, Oct. 18. Kingsport, Sunday, Oct. 19. Kingsport, Monday, Oct. 20. Kingsport, Tuesday, Oct. 21. Kingsport, Wednesday, Oct. 22. Kingsport, Thursday, Oct. 23. Kingsport, Friday, Oct. 24. Kingsport, Saturday, Oct. 25. Kingsport, Sunday, Oct. 26. Kingsport, Monday, Oct. 27. Kingsport, Tuesday, Oct. 28. Kingsport, Wednesday, Oct. 29. Kingsport, Thursday, Oct. 30. 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